

Testimony before the Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment
Advancement
February 14, 2019

Dear Senator Haskell, Rep. Haddad and members of the Higher Education and
Employment Advancement Committee.

My name is Sarah Donovan and I am a registered voter in Easton.

I writing to testify regarding SB 750, An Act Concerning the prevention and
treatment of mental illness at institutions of higher education.

Anxiety is high among freshman college students. Often, they suffer without
help. I have a story regarding my daughter's roommate, who did go to see the
school psychiatrist regarding her anxiety. The girl did receive help, in the form
of medication, but there was no follow up with regard to talk therapy or the
appropriateness of continuing her prescription. Her prescription was for
benzodiazepines, which she handed out to other girls.

I am sure that the limited resources the school had to offer with regard to mental well being
caused the decision to write the prescription without appropriate medical supervision or
therapeutic follow up. Because of this situation, I am in favor of:

SB 750 (Proposed) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT
OF MENTAL ILLNESS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Thank you for reading to my testimony today.

Sarah Donovan

Easton, CT